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SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT FOR DRC - NOVEMBER 4, 2008,
AS OF 5:30 PM CENTRAL AFRICAN TIME (GMT +1)

REFS: (A) KINSHASA 964
(B) KINSHASA 963

¶1. (U) All times Kinshasa (GMT + 1) unless otherwise indicated.

Security Situation in Goma

¶2. (SBU) MONUC continues to reinforce Goma, to include armored personnel carriers at key locations, although troop levels appear to be less than optimal. MONUC military contacts said they are looking into options for redeploying peacekeepers to Goma. In particular, the lines of command and operation for the Pakistani battalion in South Kivu have been extended northwards into North Kivu, thereby extending their field of operations without submitting to Indian command (which heretofore had been responsible for all of North Kivu).

¶3. (SBU) USAID officer TDY in Goma/Gisenyi attended a UN security briefing today, at which it was reported that most of the area around Goma was calm November 3, with the exception of fighting reported in Kashunga, north of Mweso (100 kilometers west of Goma) between the FARDC and CNDP.

¶4. (SBU) At Nyanzale (reftels), the small FARDC presence had fled when they heard of an eventual CNDP movement towards the area. Although there was no fighting reported there and CNDP troops have not entered Nyanzale, NGO's have reported that it has been emptied of its population, including IDP's, since November 3. Mercy Corps evacuated its staff from Nyanzale. Additionally, the CNDP is bringing in reinforcements around Mushaki, approximately 30 kilometers west of Goma, which is of concern to humanitarian workers.

¶5. (SBU) The CNDP released a letter today to SRSG Alan Doss, under Nkunda's signature, noting that the ceasefire declared by the CNDP is in danger, mostly because of MONUC's inability to stop cooperation between the FARDC and the FDLR.

¶6. (SBU) The UNHCR office in Kinshasa told PolCouns and Poloff today that Guatemalan Special Forces soldiers are ensuring security at the Goma airport. Additionally, up to 5,000 FARDC soldiers and their families have fled to Minova, just over the border in South Kivu, and there is concern as to what instability this movement might bring. UNHCR emphasized that the security situation in Goma is tenuous, due to the proximity of the CNDP to the town, and that only essential staff are operating there.

Humanitarian Developments

¶7. (SBU) WFP has begun delivering food in some locations. NGO contacts in Goma report continued pillaging of items in the field

such as medical stocks, but the FARDC appears to have returned most of the vehicles they had commandeered from NGO's. Separately, the Belgian government reportedly is sending in two planes of food and other humanitarian items, which should arrive today or soon thereafter.

¶8. (SBU) The UNHCR office also noted that the UN convoy to Rutshuru on November 3 (ref B) found that all three camps in the area had been emptied of their inhabitants, and shelters burned. There is strong evidence that the CNDP forced the camps' inhabitants to return home, on the pretext that the situation was now secure. Rutshuru is under CNDP control, according to UNHCR. UNHCR emphasized that the passage of this convoy to CNDP area was a substantive public relations boon for the rebel group, which it exploited.

¶9. (SBU) The UNHCR office reported that 10,000 refugees have fled to Uganda over the past several weeks, but maintained that only 50 had gone to Rwanda. These latter appeared to be waiting near the border for security to improve to return to the DRC.

Political Developments

¶10. (SBU) A MONUC Kinshasa contact reported to Poloff that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon should arrive in Kinshasa on November 9, following a trip to Kigali on November 6 or 7. The UNSG will attempt to facilitate a meeting between Presidents Kabila and Kagame.

¶11. (U) The recently named AU envoy (ref A) is Ibrahima Fall,

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former Senegalese foreign minister, who was also previously Kofi Annan's Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region and Assistant Secretary-General at UN headquarters.

¶12. (SBU) MONUC contacts in Goma report that ex-combatants continue to show up at the military camp at Nyaleke. The facilitation will meet soon to continue planning the process of dealing with ex-combatants.

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